

ago to suggest a course of instruction for some orientals who were to be brought up as engineers, he had recommended Putney College, thus shewing his good opinion of it. The pupils had many and great advantages, and ought not to misuse them. When it was remembered what Telford, his friend, had done (a man who had raised himself from the obscurest position by his own efforts), it would be seen that the highest honours were open to them with greater opportunities for succeeding. Smedley was brought up a watchmaker, and worked his own way; and one of our leading engineers at this time had told him that he had, in his youth, worked as a millwright at 3s. a day: what would these men have done if they could have had the advantage of the college?

In architecture the prizes were awarded to Broadrick (class 1), Shearwood (2), and Hayton (3).

In civil engineering, to Codrington (class 1), Kershaw (2), and Riley (3).

With no other feeling than good will towards this Institution, we venture to urge, in concluding our notice of a very agreeable morning, that the professors should give a little more consideration to the preparation of their reports: they are not speaking of children or to children, and should assume a higher tone than that which was observable generally on this occasion.

### THE LABOUR QUESTION IN FRANCE.

At the very outset we ventured to record a prediction, that, if the communist or socialist principles then in the ascendant "continued to prevail, or even to struggle and be recognised in the movement" at Paris, the republic would be torn to shreds between the commercial and the operative classes, between the capital and the labour, between the Boulevards, as it were, and the Faubourgs of the city,—a prediction which is now being fearfully fulfilled. The powerful monster, nurtured in the arms of a republic horrified with the sinister and unseemly visage of its own progeny, even while, in its paralysis, unresistingly allowing it to drain to the dregs the limited circulation of its very life's blood, has at length been strangled in the midst of horrors which it needed not the dreaded guillotine to aggravate or even to equal. The labour of the new birth of France has indeed produced an industrial caricature, both gross and terrible, of the "rights of labour." Brimfull of horrors though it has been, however, Paris has to be thankful that the defenders of the cause of order have prevailed, since, in the sacred name of Labour, work of a still more fearful order would inevitably have been now in progress. Even as it is, we shudder to think of the untold misery which the abrupt dissolution of an organization of much more than 100,000 poor misguided, far more than guilty, people, must bequeath to the intense wretchedness with which the Faubourgs already teemed, and which not the best of good-will nor the most strenuous of endeavours on the part of those peremptory authorities now in power, can do much to diminish, in a city devoid of anything like union workhouses. The republic having deliberately fostered such a rankling, eating cancer in the body-corporate, is in duty bound to the utmost to assuage its pain, to soothe its irritation, and to restore it to a healthy and quiescent state.\* And it is highly satisfactory to have an apparently earnest assurance from General Cavaignac that every thing within the bounds of possibility is being done, and will be done, to that most devoutly to be wished-for end. "I leave to the Minister of Finance to point out the principal measures which will be proposed to you," said the General, in announcing the dissolution of the national ateliers. "But I must mention that the object of one is to allot a credit to a society called the Builders' Society. The demands made by that company

are remarkable for their justice and moderation. When the assembly shall have examined these measures, if it thinks fit to approve of them, I doubt not that other associations will hasten to follow the example of the society alluded to. This, gentlemen, is what I have to communicate to you, and I hope, with your support, that we may be able to surmount the difficulties of the present state of affairs." The assembly received this announcement with marked approbation, though the Finance Committee have expressed their fear that a loan to the builders will be dangerous in principle, and their belief that it would be more advisable to strengthen the discount banks than to make a loan. Mr. Leon Faucher proposed to offer premiums to builders, in order to obtain healthy habitations for the working classes, as in England.

The architects and master builders themselves, at all events, have expressed a willingness to repay loans from the State with interest, engaging to expend the money in building, by means of which, and from the highly ornamented style of Parisian construction, not only all kinds of workmen, but even of artists, would require to be employed.

It is seriously under consideration to have the Rue de Rivoli carried on to the Bastille, or to cut a wide street from the Louvre to the Bastille, thus fulfilling the design of Napoleon, to place the Tuilleries and the Louvre midway between two gorgeous avenues, the one crowned by the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile, at the top of the Champs Elysees; the other by a colossal elephant, emblematic of the eastern world. Besides cutting a broad way through those narrow defiles, which, when barricaded, were hitherto deemed impregnable, such a line, if effected, would necessitate the opening of wide lateral streets, so that the filthy quarters of Paris would be rendered both physically and politically healthy. The plan for completing the Louvre had been settled in 1840, but could not, on account of the expenses of the fortifications, be proceeded with, and for the same reason could not be resumed. The difficulty now will be to find money—but this difficulty, as the *Times*, from whom we quote, hopefully suggests, is not so great as might be imagined. "The Parisian bourgeois has a passion for building. The tradesman or shopkeeper who makes money never thinks of investing in land, or even of enlarging his business. He buys or builds some immense castle of a house, and of that he makes his estate. In fine, it is right that Europe should know, and it is consolatory to think, that instead of meditating aggression as a means of getting rid of dissatisfied workmen and fiery spirits, the statesmen of the day are thinking of using these forcats for the beautifying and enriching, and restoring of their great city. Should they be well seconded, it is hardly possible to doubt that the means will be raised, at least, sufficiently to set the works going, and lay the foundation of confidence and credit, the great sources of prosperity. A country naturally so rich need never despair, and does not despair. There are even in manufactures many things of which the French must for a long time have a monopoly. In all branches in which correct design enters as the main attraction, the French enjoy undoubted superiority."

Let us hope for the best then for 'pauvre' France. The harvest itself promises an additional resource immediately available in the clearance of the cities and towns from the miscellaneous riff-raff of all descriptions, and advantage is to be taken of their temporary agricultural pursuit permanently to purge these centres of mischief and idleness, by restoring to the country thousands who should have never quitted it.

### REINTERMENT OF GUNDREDA'S REMAINS.

—Our readers will remember the excitement caused in the antiquarian world by the discovery of the coffins of the Norman Gundreda and William de Warenne in the priory ruins at Lewes last year. On Tuesday, 10th inst., these remains were interred in Southover Church, where the very interesting carved Norman slab which formerly covered Gundreda's grave in the priory, has been placed for some years. A mausoleum of Caen stone has been erected on the south side of the church.

### "THE CHANCELLOR'S CHEESE-PARINGS."

In an article under this head, and while quizzically pretending to have yielded himself up to visions of substantial retrenchment by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, aided by the voluntary advent of aristocratic sacrifices of superfluous pensionary contributions, whispered confidentially and believed implicitly by a mistaken contemporary who had been at length obliged to confess he had been hoaxed, the *Gateshead Observer* goes on to observe that the Chancellor, turning his back on the aristocracy, who would no doubt pocket the affront, has addressed himself to the democracy—to the "common people;" and the curiosity which we had felt," says he, "to learn the details of his experience as a 'snapper-up of unconsidered trifles,' was gratified with a vengeance when we learned that Sir Charles, coming nearer home than was agreeable, had saved one hundred and fifty pounds a year by abolishing the Newcastle School of Design! Yes! this popular institution, the value of which is stated, certainly without exaggeration, in a memorial which has been addressed to the Board of Trade, is to fall a sacrifice to the imbecility of the Government. Granted to Newcastle in 1843, by Sir Robert Peel, mainly at the intercession of the member for Gateshead, it is taken away in 1848 by Lord John Russell. Pampered indolence retains its hold of the public purse: the marvellous pittance of a laborious artist, who humbly and unobtrusively devotes his nights and days to the refinement and elevation of individuals and of society, is rudely withheld. The Chancellor wants the money, and the pretext—any pretext—is laid hold of, to excuse the deed.

"Our Liverpool friend aforesaid, the more indignant because his confidence had been misplaced, exclaims [with reference to the pitiful oppressions of the poor landing-watermen and others in the Customs]:—'Thus it is that those in power deal with the working bees! Why do they not direct their attention to that part of the hive in which the drones are so lavishly supplied with honey which they take no part in producing, and for which they make no return in any way?' Ah! why, indeed? We pretend not to know how it came about that the Government fell so ghoulishly upon Gnoles,—cut down the salaries of the Customs-officers, extinguished the landing-water, and laid about them, right and left, until they had squeezed 300*l.* a year out of the degraded port. Possibly, however, the Commissioners were asked, like the heads of other departments, if any reductions could be made in their direction, and cheerfully consented to devote any or every officer of the Customs to the sacrificial knife, save and except themselves!

"Have these gentlemen ever read the old Dutch chronicle which the witty canon of St. Paul's discovered (or invented) for the edification of the bench of bishops? The reform, begun at Gnoles and threatening Hull, may reach the Thames. The Pentagonal Board is not invulnerable. There is a growing suspicion that four of the five commissioners might share the fate of the abolished landing-water, and the business of the Board be all the better transacted for the massacre. Let their Excellencies see to it that their own doom is not at hand." There are other Excellencies than these, we fear, who should see to it too.

**LONDON ANTIQUITIES.**—One of the most valuable existing collections of London antiquities was yesterday brought to the hammer by Messrs. Sotheby. It had been accumulated at considerable trouble and expense by a gentleman, who, we believe, was formerly in the employ of the corporation, and who, previous to the sale by auction, offered it to that body for a sum much below its real value. The offer was, of course, declined. But what becomes of the assertions made now and then so emphatically of the anxiety of the city authorities for a museum? The value of the collection just sold lay in the authenticated proof of the objects having been dug up in the city, and it should therefore have been kept intact, and if the city refused to purchase, it was then the duty of the British Museum directors to have treated for it. But nothing of the kind was done, and the labours of fifteen years were overthrown in three hours by the auctioneer's hammer.

\* It is scarcely necessary for us to note, that the mere facilities given to the working classes during the first days of the revolution was not what we reproached. On the contrary, such assistance could not but have met with our warmest sympathy at such a crisis, had it not been based on principles, and supported by promises, beyond all practicality, and carrying to their own education the inevitable seeds not only of those bloody fruits which have since been reaped, but of their own final annihilation, even though they had been to this hour successful.